

EDINBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

In attendance: Steve Wood, Cynthia Morris, Tracy Miller, Sue Horne, Donna Smith, Fran Romeo, Justin Wightman and Mary Embrey.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wood at 5:32 p.m.

The October 22, 2009 minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was approved. The balance as of today is \$3,005.34. Ms. Morris submitted an invoice for \$70.80 for the tea lights she bought for the luminaries.

Ms. Miller stated that the Chamber should do something to notify the public that the new website is live. Mr. Wood will write something up to send out about the new website. Ms. Miller also stated that the Chamber website domain name through Network Solutions is paid through February 2, 2010. Ms. Culler, the web designer cannot get access to Network Solutions, and has no way of getting into it to change the domain name, which will need to be re-directed. Ms. Horne stated that she will mention this to her husband who may be able to help.

Mr. Wood asked Ms. Romeo whether or not she decided to be the Edinburg Chamber's representative on the County Chamber Advisory Committee. Ms. Romeo wanted to know when the Committee met every month. Mr. Wood stated that the Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and that she could contact Cyndi Pulis for more information. Ms. Romeo agreed to be the representative.

Mr. Wood stated that the Annual Christmas Social at the Edinburg Village Shop on Thursday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. is for Chamber Members only. Mr. Wood stated that invitations needed to be sent out for the Christmas Social ASAP. Ms. Embrey will send out invitations to all the Members.

Ms. Morris added that the Christmas Social was BYOB and each person should bring an appetizer or dessert. Ms. Morris also stated that Ms. Horne will donate poinsettias, and that she is donating two bottles of wine for door prizes at the Social.

Mr. Wood reported that the Central High School Band will be in the Christmas Parade and that the Band will perform after the Parade until the Tree Lighting. Mr. Wood also reported that he has found a Santa Claus. Mr. Booker will be playing Santa Claus. He has his own Santa costume and charges \$150.

Ms. Morris asked what happened to last years Santa. Mr. Wood reported that Glen Miller, who was Santa Claus last year, said that he would not be doing Santa again this year.

Mr. Wood asked for suggestions for transporting Santa Claus in the Christmas Parade. Ms. Morris suggested contacting Muhlenberg Ford to possibly borrow a convertible. Mr. Wood doesn't think they would lend us anything. Mr. Wood suggested contacting the Fire Department to see if Santa could ride on one of the fire engines. Mr. Wood will contact them.

Ms. Horne suggested that the clowns in the Parade could hand out candy since there is no candy throwing allowed. The clowns also need a place to put on their costumes and do their makeup. Ms. Smith stated that the clowns could use one of their bathrooms to get ready.

Mr. Wood reported that he is trying to get the Central High School football players to be in the Parade, but has not heard back from their coach, Mike Yew. Mr. Wood also reported that he is having a hard time getting responses for the Parade and also that he thinks there are too many Christmas Parades on the same day, and many can't be in our Parade since they are participating in other Town's Parades.

Ms. Morris asked Ms. Miller if she purchased the bags for the luminaries yet. Ms. Miller stated that she had not purchased them yet, since she has no place to store them. She will buy approximately 500 of the bags.

Ms. Horne asked if the luminary tea lights could be used again for next year. Ms. Morris stated that yes, they should be able to. They are supposed to last approximately 288 hours.

Ms. Morris stated that the letters to the Parlor Tour participants have gone out and an email has been sent out regarding "Preview Night", which will be on Thursday, December 10th. Ms. Morris also stated that it is up to the individual how much of their house they would like to show.

Ms. Horne stated that she is working on the flags that will be placed in front of each house on the Parlor Tours. She also stated that the fluorescent paint is not working, but thought she may be able to use reflective tape instead. Ms. Miller stated that the luminaries should be bright enough to light up the flags.

Mr. Wood stated that he thought that if the flags were out all day on December 11th and December 12th that people might come to the houses at any time during the day. Mr. Wood suggested that red blinkers could be clipped onto the flags so they could be seen better. Mr. Wood stated that the blinkers can be purchased at CE Thompsons and he thinks the blinkers are around \$10 each. Ms. Miller suggested asking Thompsons to donate the blinkers for the thirteen properties on the House Tours.

Mr. Wood stated that it will soon be time to start planning for the Summer Concerts. Ms. Smith reported that her and Ms. Horne will look into the concerts and see what they can find out. Mr. Wood suggested that just one big concert might be better than four. Ms. Horne stated that the bands were too expensive. Mr. Wood suggested that the Chamber may be able to get some of the businesses to sponsor the concert.

Mr. Wood stated that in the Chamber By-Laws, there must be an Auditing Committee and a Finance Committee.

Mr. Wood reported that he was contacted by WSVG about advertising on their station. Ms. Romeo stated that she did a commercial on "Simply Local" for Response. The ad was \$75 a month and received a very good response from the public.

Ms. Morris asked if any Press Releases had been sent out regarding the Chamber Christmas events. Ms. Romeo stated that she did not think so. Ms. Miller will send Ms. Romeo her media contact list and Ms. Romeo will send out the Press Releases. Ms. Morris stated that the Parlor Tours were listed in the December Events section of the Bryce Mountain Courier.

Mr. Wood stated that he thought the Chamber should advertise on the radio. Ms. Miller didn't think the Chamber had enough funds to advertise. Ms. Horne stated that newspaper advertising may be a lost cause due to loss of readership due to the economy and that television and/or radio would be a better way to go. Ms. Miller suggested contacting several of the newspapers to see if they would do an article on the Parlor Tours and Christmas events.

Ms. Miller stated that the Chamber Christmas Event Flyers needed to be handed out to businesses in other Towns, as well as all the businesses in Edinburg.

Mr. Wood stated that the Chamber has not had a Banquet for three years. The Chamber had planned on having a Banquet in October, but had to be cancelled due to lack of ticket sales. Only fifteen people bought tickets. Ms. Romeo stated that she thought that the Banquet was a waste of money and time. Mr. Wood stated that all Committee and Banquet issues will be tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Horne stated that the Chamber should start new next year and should concentrate on one big fundraiser instead of several small ones.

Ms. Miller stated that the Parlor Tours should really be pushed. Ms. Miller will mention the Parlor Tours at the next Lioness Club Meeting.

Mr. Wood stated that the Chamber still needs a Treasurer. Ms. Morris asked if the Vice President could be added to sign checks. Mr. Wood stated that only the Treasurer and President should be the only ones able to sign. Mr. Wood also stated that he would not be able to attend the January 2010 and February 2010 Chamber Meetings due to his responsibilities with the School Ski Club. Ms. Morris stated that everyone should try to bring in at least one new Board Member. According to the By-Laws, the Board of Directors should have twelve members.

Ms. Miller suggested that the Chamber email be transferred to Ms. Embrey and Ms. Heier at the Town Office. Ms. Embrey will set up the account so she and Ms. Heier can check the Chamber email and forward events to Chamber Members.

Ms. Horne wanted to know who would help with the luminaries if the Boy Scouts could not. Ms. Miller suggested someone ask Matt Burgwald to help if the Boy Scouts could not do it. Ms. Horne stated that she thought there should still be a "Plan B". Mr. Wood stated that anyone helping with the luminaries will have to help put them out AND help pick them up.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Embrey